

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 096941
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11
OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00
OMB-01 SS-15 L-03 /113 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JJHURLEY
APPROVED BY EUR:JEGOODBY
EUR/CE:RCBARKLEY
EUR/RPE:RGELBARD
EB/IFD:MBOERNER

-----027527 150432Z /70

P 150159Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ZURICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 096941

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ELAB, OECD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS-FIRESTONE NEGOTIATIONS IN AKRON

REF: STATE 93330

1. SWISS AMBASSADOR PROBST NOTIFIED DEPARTMENT OFFICER
APRIL 14 THAT AT THE APRIL 12-13 DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FIRE-
STONE OFFICIALS AND THE SPECIAL SWISS TEAM, BASEL CANTON
REPRESENTATIVES PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS WHICH FIRESTONE FEELS
WILL MAKE VIABLE CONTINUED TIRE PRODUCTION IN ITS BASEL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 096941

AREA PLANT. FIRESTONE POINTED TO SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES AND
DOUBTS. HOWEVER, IT AGREED FINALLY TO A JOINT PRESS DECLAR-
ATION THAT ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY AS
WELL AS AGREEMENT BY FIRESTONE TO CONSULT WITH SWISS LABOR
UNIONS BEFORE ANY FINAL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ACCORDING TO PROBST, THE SWISS ARGUED

WITH FIRESTONE THAT WHILE THE BASEL CANTON PLANT WAS TOP HEAVY WITH MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, YET TOO MANY DECISIONS HAD TO BE SOUGHT VIA TELEX FROM THE US PARENT. PLANT PERSONNEL ARE AMENABLE TO AN AVERAGE TEN PERCENT WAGE REDUCTION. BASEL CANTON OFFICIALS PROMISED A PUBLIC RELATIONS "BUY SWISS" CAMPAIGN AND STATED THEY WOULD SET UP A MEETING WITH

GARAGE PURCHASING AGENTS. BASEL CANTONAL OFFICIALS ALSO ARGUED THAT PRODUCTION COULD BE INCREASED BY REORGANIZATION. NEXT WEEK TWO FIRESTONE MARKETING SPECIALISTS WILL FLY TO SWITZERLAND TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT WORKING GROUP.

3. PROBST EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE TALKS AND FIRESTONE COOPERATION. HE WAS PLEASED THAT FIRESTONE WAS PERSUADED TO BLOCK ITS PLANT CLOSING, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. AT PRESENT HE THEREFORE SEES NO NEED FOR SWITZERLAND TO INVOKE CONSULTATION PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE OECD GUIDELINES ON TRANSNATIONALS. PROBST SAID A KEY ARGUMENT BY HIM TO THE FIRESTONE PRINCIPALS WAS THAT A PLANT CLOSING NOW REPRESENTED A REACTION TO SHORT-RUN DIFFICULTIES THAT FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MEDIUM AND LONGTERM ADVANTAGES, SUCH AS POLITICAL STABILITY, THAT PLANT IN SWITZERLAND PROMISED. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE096941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJHURLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0104
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780452/aaaabsff.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e41128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 93330
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2955740
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWISS-FIRESTONE NEGOTIATIONS IN AKRON
TAGS: EINV, ELAB, SZ, US, OECD, FIRESTONE
To: BERN USOECD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e41128ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014